

laboratory, and is a good example of how 'intangibles' can be studied, and how the 'practice wisdom' of our casework approach can be the real essence of the research process. The book is divided into 5 autonomous but integrated parts.

1. The background to the program and the implementation of joint admission.
2. Treatment of the mother during and after hospitalisation.
3. The effects of admission on the child.
4. The personality factors of the mother.
5. A model of etiology of maternal maladjustment based on psychodynamic and life crisis concepts.

The first section describes the actual process of implementing the program, the sources of resistance in the organisation and how these were overcome. Carol Hartman's section on the treatment of the mother is from a psychiatric nursing perspective and tends to make claims not justified by her small samples. Her classification of two 'mothering styles' on the basis of a sample of 11 mothers is a case in point. On the other hand her casework insights are very valuable, especially relating to post-discharge counselling in the home, and have a lot to offer the social worker who occupies this role in the Australian setting. She makes no mention of group work with such mothers which I have found very useful in facilitating reintegration into the family and community.

In the third part David Gallant assesses the development of a group of children of psychotic mothers, comparing those admitted with their mother and those in surrogate care, with a 'normal' sample. He finds, as have other researchers that children of psychotic mothers manifest early deficiencies in cognitive and interpersonal development.

Also working from small samples he finds that those children admitted with their mothers are advanced

in their cognitive development and he attributes this to the cognitively enriched environment in the psychiatric ward. The social work survey shows a very poor standard of surrogate care arranged by the other families.

One of the major research shortcomings of the book is its failure to compare the outcome of joint admission mothers with those admitted alone. This is central to the evaluation of the joint admission program but appears to have been taken for granted. The reactions of the mothers and those working with them suggest that joint admission was very beneficial, an opinion I would share, but this should have been verified by the research.

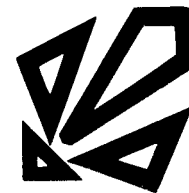
The fourth part of the book concerns the psychosocial development of the mother and is a poor part of the research. It uses as its main tool the Interpersonal Apperception Technique which is a projective test based on the very neo-Freudian theory it sets out to prove. Not surprisingly it yields data which is self confirming, having found that the patients have unresolved conflicts in their early psychosocial stages. Perhaps it is a function of the time at which this research was done that there is no attempt to understand the psychotic experiences of these women in terms of the meaningfulness of their often extreme delusions. My experience with puerperal psychosis patients is that the delusional content (having been born again, the baby being dead, fusion of identity, being the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus) is very meaningful to their adjustment to the mother role.

Some of the content also supports Cohler's ideas. The final section is also limited by its narrow psychodynamic focus, and ignores some of the recent research on critical periods in interpersonal development (while relying heavily on earlier work) as well as giving only scant attention to biological and social factors. Some social perspec-

tive is provided by their concept of parenthood as a developmental life crisis but their treatment of role concepts is superficial. Our understanding of the whole area of adjustment to the parental role would be enhanced by some cross-cultural studies and by exploring the dichotomy in our society between sex role conditioning and maternal role expectations, and the inadequacy of social support systems and role preparation which inhibit successful role performance.

Given its research and theoretical limitations this book nevertheless contains many useful insights, not only into the extreme dysfunctional end of the spectrum often present in the psychiatric system but into the process of adjusting to parenthood generally. It should prove useful to those involved in direct and indirect services to the young parent.

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Yarrow L.J., Rubenstein J. L. and Pedersen F. A. (1975) "Infant and Environment: early cognitive and motivational development".
Halsted Press (John Wiley & Sons), N.Y.

Most of us know, thanks to Freud's emphasis of patterning following early experience, that depriving environments inhibit the healthy growth and development of children, whereas warm and loving environments facilitate these entities. Not only do we know this but the upsurge of interest, research and writing over the past decade has vindicated our faith in that adage of

human development 'ergo hoc propter hoc'. The earlier papers of Chapin, Goldfarb, Bakwin and Spitz virtually set the direction of "research" in this area at a relatively superficial level of "reportage". It would be too unkind to suggest that the more recent work of writers and researchers such as Bowlby were consistent with overmuch speculation and rather less of factual research. Were one to entertain such unworthy thoughts one might be considered somewhat justified after reading this monograph, for here the movement is away from generalizations to the more specific aspects of environment that contribute to or detract from healthy infant functioning.

The book is set out in a form one expects of scientific reports and enquiries. The first 2 chapters describe theoretical issues, the investigation and how it was formulated and carried out. Their subjects were 41 black infants (21 boys, 20 girls) from the District of Columbia and their primary caregivers. Observations were originally made on a sample of 70 but 29 were subsequently excluded. Social, economic and educational characteristics of the parents covered a wide spectrum. The initial screening of the core sample excluded perinatal and birth difficulties, and paediatric examination assured that infants were free from gross physical and neurological impairment. All the mother-infant interactions were observed in the homes of the sample thus eliminating the unreal laboratory approach.

Chapter 3 describes theory and practice on why and how the environment was differentiated for purposes of the study. Firstly, the social environment as seen in aspects of maternal care, is discussed, and included in this section are modalities of stimulation, time relationship between infant behaviour and caregiver's response, maternal affect and the social mediation of inanimate objects. Secondly, the In-

animate Environment is subdivided into variety, responsiveness and complexity of objects in the infant's surroundings. Chapter 4 is given over to the differentiation of infant functioning including social responsiveness, language and exploratory behaviour; and these and other variables in the infant's environment are discussed clearly and fully.

The summary of observations and conceptual issues follow the methodology of the "experiment". Although variables are clearly differentiated for purposes of observation, the authors at no time suggest that such variables act independently, and a section of this chapter discusses the combination of environmental variables.

In order that the study should not lose its human touch nor relegate mother-infant relationships to statistical survey alone, Chapter 6 analytically describes some of the people and relationships in the study. The authors have rather delightfully entitled this chapter "Portraits of some live Infants and Mothers".

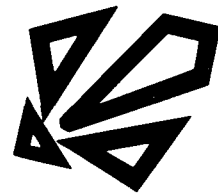
Apart from 3 appendices dealing with statistical data and explanations of experimented design and difficulties, the final chapter sums up the authors' findings, and their comments and discussion on some of the incidental material uncovered, as well as data indicating future investigation.

Although the past decade has seen much interest in the development of infants in their environment, few studies have attempted to finely differentiate the many variables operating, nor "the relations between specific dimensions of experience and infant characteristics". This study has attempted to do just this, and has done it exceedingly well. The authors nevertheless do not at any stage give the impression of self-satisfaction, and have clearly struggled to mix a human approach with scientific "purity". Already in the last chapter they are redesigning and seeking a more adequate methodology. Even some of their

unlooked-for result data such as the differences between male and female infant development are treated warily and no attempt at interpretation is made, although to the clinician this is a very real temptation, and appears at least to correlate with the greater referral ratio of males and females.

Overall this book will be of interest to all who are involved in that most important of all human relationships, mother and child, and some chapters are really essential reading for all who teach on the developing personality. A knowledge of basic statistics would be useful in understanding such areas as statistical results and methodology; but the chapters on differentiations of environment and functioning, findings and conceptual issues, and the authors' overview are both instructive and interesting, even at times fascinating. The chapter on "Portraits" is a bonus issue. One feels that the book will contribute much to the future enrichment programmes for the socially deprived in America; and certainly in the Antipodes when, and if, we channel our resources energetically, in the direction of those to whom we must ultimately hand our nation's future.

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The Family in Today's Money World, Frances L. Feldman, 2nd (ed) Family Service Association N.Y., 1976.

This book, unlike many texts, is precisely about what its title suggests . . . money! However, in my